

REMARKS

Claims 28 and 40 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Now pending are claims 16-53. No new matter has been added.

Amendment or cancellation of any claim herein is not to be construed as acquiescence to any of the rejections/objections set forth in the instant Office Action, and was done solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants make these amendments without prejudice to pursuing the original subject matter of this application in a later filed application claiming benefit of the instant application, including without prejudice to any determination of equivalents of the claimed subject matter.

Applicants submit that entry of the amendments is proper pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 as the amendments merely cancel certain claims and put the remaining claims in better condition for allowance or appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments is proper and the same is requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation a helpful telephonic interview with the Examiner on November 16, 2006 (the "Interview"). During the Interview, the rejection of the claims was discussed. It was agreed that claims 16-27 are in condition for allowance, and that claims 28 and 40 (and the claims dependent therefrom) would be allowable if re-written to recite the compound structure of claim 16. It was further agreed that the application would be in condition for allowance if claims 1-15 were cancelled.

The Claims

The claims have been amended as discussed during the Interview; claims 1-15 have been cancelled, and claims 28 and 40 have been amended to include the compound structure of claim

16 (i.e., by being made dependent from claim 16). Accordingly, Applicants submit that all outstanding rejections have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The undersigned requests any extensions of time necessary for response. Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

If the Examiner considers that obstacles to allowance still exist, the undersigned invites a telephone call at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,
By Mark D. Russett
Mark D. Russett
Registration No.: 41,281
Customer No.: 21874
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
(617) 439-4444
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants

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